



THE STATIC LINE

WESTERN STATES CHAPTER 10

NEWSLETTER

173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

Volume 4, Issue 3

Fall 2017

Chapter News for Fall 2017

By Bob Ortiz, Chapter 10 President

Menlo Park BBQ

On June 3rd we gathered for our combined Menlo Park VA Hospital for Disabled Vets BBQ with the All Airborne Post 694 from Marina. It was a great success feeding close to 200 patients and staff. It's always a good feeling knowing that in some small way you put a smile on someone's face just by being there, helping to show our fellow brothers and sisters that they are not forgotten.

Summer Picnic.

August 5th we had our Chapter 10 BBQ at Princeton-by-the-Sea American Legion Post #474.

Judging by the feedback I got, I think it was really good fun. We had 38 participants under the parachute tent. Thanks go out to Steve Gonzales for helping me the night before to put up the tent and move in the tables and to those that helped that morning at the BBQ. Airborne Hoorah to all! We had a great raffle, plus added two new associate members, Mike Roberts and Jim Williams; Welcome to our very special Brotherhood. The weath-



er was really good and so was the food brought by all to help this gathering; another great day was had by all. Remember that we are the keepers of our memories, to share.



On a Sad Note

On September 22 a memorial was held for Jim Spits who passed from cancer. Jim was one of the original organizers of the Menlo Park BBQs for disabled vets. "Rabbit" Maier and myself attended



Jim Spits

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**WESTERN STATES CHAPTER 10
173rdAIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION**

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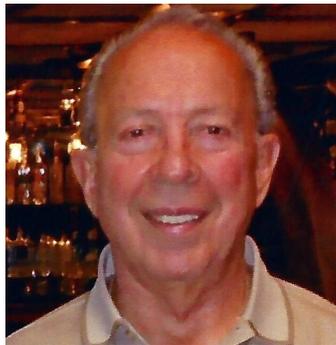
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I know it's been said before, but I do not take for granted all the support I get in the many different gatherings our Chapter members are involved in throughout the year. Our brotherhood makes it a combined effort. It's totally understood that it's not easy, with our work and family life commitments, to make most of our Chapter functions and participatory events. But someone is always representing Chapter 10. Thank you all for your efforts



Please come to our Fall meeting, 21st October, 2017, at Tracy Legion Hall #172. Want to start at 11am to talk of upcoming events and 2018 events and locations. Need your input and ideas. **Think about travel time so we can start on time and leave early too.**



**Membership Reminder
A Message from Rob Linscott,
Chapter 10 Treasurer**

Chapter 10 members should pay your membership dues through the Chapter and not to the Association. If people pay their membership dues through the Chapter, we keep \$10 for the Chapter and we send a Chapter membership card. I send the remainder to the Association to keep the member current. If they pay directly to the Association, the Chapter gets nothing and we are not informed of your payment. I am afraid that they prefer the latter. Pay your dues through the Chapter, it's the best way.

**Pay membership dues at any general meeting or send them to: Western States Chapter 10
Attn: Robert Linscott
P.O. Box 151
Fairfax, CA 94978**

Pay your dues to the Chapter or this guy may stare you down at the next meeting.



THE NEXT CHAPTER 10 MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2017 11 AM
 American Legion Post 172
 1960 N Tracy Blvd, Tracy, CA 95376



the services at the Ft. Ord old cemetery and the American Legion after. Some of us knew Jim from the late 80's. A picture poster was made showing those years plus other functions that Chapter 10 was involved with; we put it with the table that had memories of his life. Jim was highly decorated for his combat service in Korea and Vietnam with the 101st Airborne. From the first Col. Maggie's Parades and BBQ, Fort Ord Warhorse celebrations, and serving as Post #694 Commander; Jim did it all with Airborne Pride! Jim, you will be truly missed, thank you for your service and friendship.



Chapter 10 173rd ABN



Sick Call

Please keep Mike Maloney in your thoughts, he will be having surgery to remove his foot due to complications caused by Agent Orange.

Also, David Miller, who is recuperating from cancer surgery.

And, Russ Whitlark, who is recovering from his cancer treatments.

Our prayers are with you all and your families



BITS AND PIECES

SURF'S UP

Surfing at China Beach Vietnam

Dan Emerson: Early 1967 in Da Nang area Vietnam, a Navy man with the Navy Support Service Unit somehow became the founder of China Beach surfing during the Vietnam War and with the healing power of the wave-riding. I, Bob Ortiz, had forgotten about this 'til Dan and I were just talking about Vietnam in general. Dan asked me if I ever surfed in Nam at China Beach. It took me a moment and I did remember when I was at the 17 Field Hospital recovering from shrap metal wounds to my lower legs. After a few weeks there, the nurses took about 8 of us and put us in a van and then took us to a beach for rehab R&R. We were all saying how cool this was. Some of us saw some surf boards leaning on these small shacks. We said "why not?" and asked to use them; it was free. There were only about two or three foot waves, but finally getting on my knees ('cause I couldn't stand) I rode them in. I remember looking around but could not believe that I was knee surfing in Vietnam! For about 30 minutes of that day we forgot there was a war going on.



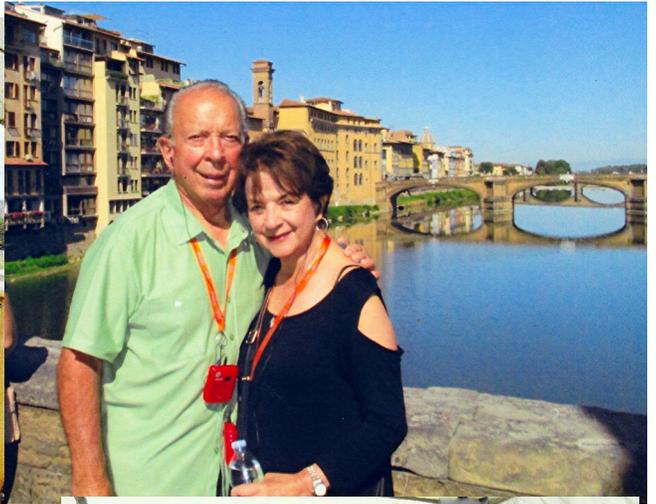
So Dan, I, and I am sure some others, thank you truly for the moments of a special kind of healing power of the mind. When I went back to base camp after being released from the hospital and tried to explain what I did, I was told I was full of _____. Then I felt bad doing that while

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Last night in Rome following the 173rd Vicenza Reunion. Bob, Alba, Don, Liza, Jim, Nancy, Eric and Raquel.





Charles with friends from one of his combat units, (D/16 Armor,) at the Brigade Reunion in Oklahoma City last May



California Surf Museum

presents

China Beach

Surfing During the Vietnam War and the Healing Power of Wave-riding

May 2017 – February 2018



Surfing Cam Ranh Bay. Photo: Rus Calisch, U.S.N.R.



Bits and Pieces

Continued from Page 3

everything was going on around us. That's probably why I put it in the lost part my memory along with a lot of other happenings. But thanks, Dan, for bringing a good memory back.

On 9/24/17 at the California Surf Museum at Oceanside, California, a memorial paddle-out service was held for Vietnam Vets, families, and friends. The day started with a free breakfast followed by a short walk for a beachside gathering and the paddle-out celebration. Many Vietnam Veterans had requested such an event so that they would have an opportunity to give recognition to the friends and comrades who are no longer with us. The pictures speak for themselves. It was really well done by all. Dan, again, thanks for letting me be a part of this brotherhood celebration.

P.S. Dan Emerson has become a new Chapter 10 Associate Member!!

Elk Grove, California PARADE



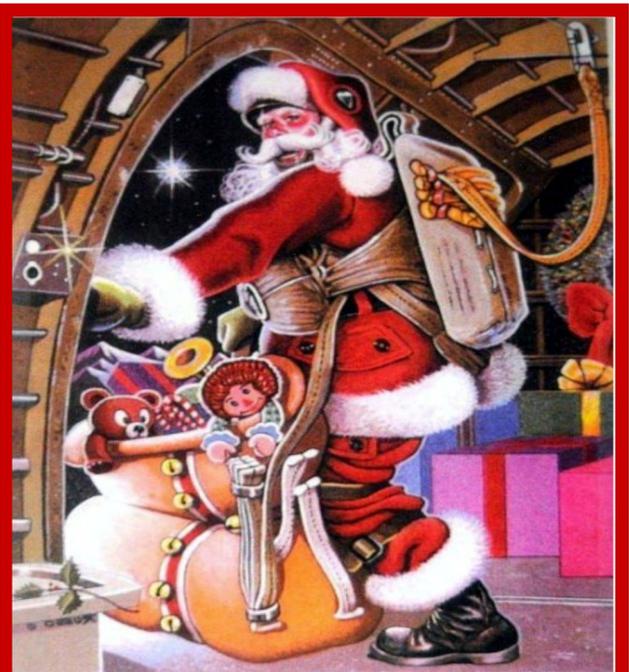
VETERANS DAY 2017

Chapter 10 members, the Parade will start in the Elk Grove Shopping Center located at 9360 Elk Grove-Florin Road. (Between Kelsey Drive and Elk Way).
Be there no later than 10:30am.

"Airborne Joe" will be there. This is a special, great day to show who we are, and for those who are not with us, that they will never be forgotten.



After the Parade
Lunch at Andy and Hilda's Place
8730 Crucero Drive
Elk Grove
916.205.6540
Bring something to share with all,
[hot](#) or [cold](#)



Don't miss Santa's yearly blast

Chapter 10's

Annual Christmas Party

Saturday December 9, 2017 11am tp 3pm

VFW Post 1051

12455 W. Ripon Rd. Ripon, CA

GOOD MUSIC, LOTS OF FOOD (BRING A DISH),

A GREAT RAFFLE WITH MANY PRIZES

THERE WILL ALSO BE A GIFT EXCHANGE

Please think about your travel time

Show your business logo or business card here in this Newsletter.

Make a donation (\$50 or more) to Chapter 10
and the Newsletter will advertise your business for one year (4 issues).
Donations are tax deductible and are used to support the community.

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Chapter 10, family and friends at the annual summer picnic